

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Official Action of October 30, 2007.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments to claims 1, 5 and 9 and the addition of new claims 12 to 17.

It is noted that the prior arguments as to claims 1, 5 and 9 are moot and that new grounds of rejection are provided for the pending claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and 10.

Copy of Prior Amendment Corrected and Provided

The examiner's point regarding the July 10, 2007 amendment is well-taken as to the page headings. The error and confusion is regretted. A corrected copy of that prior amendment is provided and withdrawal of the requirement as satisfied is requested.

Drawings

The comments regarding the drawings in the response to the Notice of Non-Compliance are reiterated and incorporated by reference. The drawings filed with the application are accepted as again noted in summary paragraph 10. No drawing changes are intended and no drawing changes were intended with the submission of a certified translation of the priority document where the text was a translation but a copy of the original Japanese drawings maintained. Nowhere was there a request for a drawing modification. Thus, the requirement is respectfully traversed and withdrawal of the requirement respectfully solicited.

Rejections

Claims 1, 5 and 9 were newly-rejected as anticipated by Kikuri. Without indicating agreement with or acquiescence in the statement of the rejection, claims 1, 5 and 9 are amended

to include the subject matter of their respective dependent claims 2, 6, and 10. In addition, geometry shown in Fig. 3 and discussed on pages 16 and 17 is added to amended claims 1, 5 and 9. Claims 2, 6 and 10 are thus cancelled.

It is submitted that, to the extent the prior rejection based on Kikuri and Watanabe might arguably be considered to apply, the geometry from Fig. 3 and pages 16 and 17 of the specification distinguishes over any proper combination. Thus, each of the claims is amended to recite that the height of the lower edge portion of the gap A1 (now denoted in the claims as gaps A1, A2 for the head A, and the gaps B1, B2 for the head B) is about the same as the height of a central portion of the gap B2 and the height of a lower edge portion of the gap A2 is about the same as the height of a central portion of the gap B1. It is believed that the combination does not anticipate or make obvious this limitation, supported in the paragraph spanning pages 16 and 17 of the specification and shown in Fig. 3.

In addition, new claims 12 to 17 are added, where claims 12 and 13 depend from claim 1; claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 5, and claims 16 and 17 depend from method claim 9. Support for these claims is found in the first full paragraph on page 17 of the specification.

It is submitted that the proposed hypothetical combination of Kikuri and Watanabe does not anticipate or render obvious these new added claims.

Docket No. SON-2897
Serial No. 10/750,820
Corrected Caption as Requested

PATENT APPLICATION


Reconsideration of amended claims 1, 5 and 9 and new claims 12 to 17 is respectfully requested. Claims 2 to 4, 6 to 8, and 10 to 11 are canceled.

Dated: **January 4, 2008**

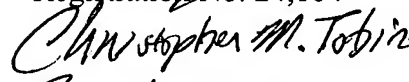
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Docket No. SON-2897
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Corrected Caption as Requested

PATENT APPLICATION

APPENDIX